



Parent Council Meeting: 6th February 2017

Acting Head Teacher Report

1. Staffing News

Since the last parent council meeting in November please note the following staffing changes:

- Mrs Colford, PT Maths, went to Renfrewshire Council on a seconded basis at the beginning of January to become a Numeracy Development Officer. Mrs Condy, acting PT Maths at Gryffe has taken on Mrs Colford's role and will come along to the PC meeting to speak about her work in the department.
- Miss Wilson was successfully appointed to the role as permanent PT Pastoral Support
- Mr Gilmour was successfully appointed to the newly created temporary post of PT Raising Attainment
- Mrs Davidson, new PT Music, has joined the team on 6th February. She comes to us from Grange Academy (Kilmarnock) where she was PT Mentoring.
- We have appointed two part time classroom assistants and, at time of writing, one has joined the team and the other should be joining shortly. Moreover one of our ASNAs (support assistants) has been promoted to a key worker role in one of the authority behaviour bases and we have appointed her replacement.
- We have advertised for a permanent PE teacher and will be interviewing soon.
- Finally, we are currently working with the local authority around our staffing requirements for session 2017/18. These discussions will include our need for permanent staff in the Modern Languages department.

2. Education Scotland Inspection

At time of writing we still do not have the Education Scotland letter to parents or the more detailed summary of inspection findings. We expect these to arrive within days. I have been in regular communication with Mrs Spence (in her role as chair of the PC) around the inspection and the letter to parents. When these arrive we will discuss another holding another PC meeting to review the findings.



3. Pupil Events

Since the last PC meeting we have held a number of events for pupils S1-6, most of which are featured on our twitter feed (please follow us!):

- Miss Malaney arranged for MSP Neil Bibby to speak to our Modern Studies students
- Miss Malaney also organised a visit for Modern Studies students to the Scottish Parliament (and Edinburgh Dungeons as they were in the area!)
- Miss Malaney also took her younger pupils to visit Sky Academy studios
- Miss Munro organised the BNP Paribas investment challenge for seniors
- Miss Malaney (supported by other staff) started up the homework club for all years – Monday after school and Thursday lunchtimes
- Mrs Ferguson and the Modern Languages department organised the S1 Languages challenge which raised £1184 for Beatson Cancer Charity. They then came into school to meet the pupils at an assembly and speak about the work they do.
- Mrs Carlin's fashion and textiles pupils took a trip to Dumfries House to compete in their annual dress design challenge
- There was a head boy/head girl conference at Gryffe High School
- A volunteer team of staff organised the term 2 behaviour award ceremonies for all year groups took place where pupil achievement was marked with certificates, competitions and prizes and entertainment provided by our Behind the Noise band.
- The Music department took our senior band to play at the Johnstone Band Stand at Christmas
- We had a Christmas jumper day for charity, our annual senior Christmas Disco and also a very successful Christmas Concert
- Last day of term events included a Christmas Service supported by Rev Archie Knox and Dougie Adam from Scripture Union; the hugely successful inaugural inter-house games run by Miss Wilson; and Christmas Karaoke with the SMT
- I accompanied our successful artists S1-6 and Mrs McHendry to the Renfrewshire Council Art Galleries; many of our pupils were selected to have their work exhibited as part of a display supporting the Paisley 2021 bid
- Mr Clark and other volunteer staff took a large number of S3 pupils to see 'A Woman in Black' at the Kings Theatre (front row tickets) to support their class study



- The English department arranged for internationally renowned local author Christopher Brookmyre to discuss his writing with our higher and advanced higher students
- I went along with our head boy and girl to the East Renfrewshire / Renfrewshire shared event to mark Holocaust memorial day
- In January Mr Palombo and other volunteer staff took a large number of pupils across the years to the Man City v Spurs game
- Scripture Union has started in the school for the first time in a number of years.

A great deal of activity that very much relies on the good will and commitment of our wonderful staff team.

4. Parent Events / Information

I hope that you have been able to access our new style Christmas newsletter that was text messaged; placed on the website and posted on our twitter feed.

Since our last meeting we have held a number of parent events: S4 parents' evening, S5/6 parents' evening, S2 parent's evening and S1 parents' evening. We were particularly pleased with the turnout at the S1 evening – 83% of families came in to school.

At each of these we issue comment cards and take on board the suggestions that parents make. These are, generally, extremely positive and the main focus for comment/concern is around logistics – time slots and accommodation. It was clear from the S2 cards that parents did not like moving from class to class (due to the prelims being held in the hall). We will try hard not to have a parents' evening when the hall is out of commission.

Our next evening is S2-5 options on 9th February. After this event we will work with pupils on the options process and ensure parents are kept fully informed. At all times we will try to maximise pupil choice within the constraints of our curriculum and staffing.

In other news, Mrs Adam and Miss Docherty have been working on a Renfrewshire Council initiative around supporting parents so they are more comfortable coming into school. Initial events have started with small numbers, mainly targeting parents of S1 who are new to the school and early feedback has been positive.



5. School Improvement

Since the last Parent Council meeting I, along with the link DHTs, have met with Principal Teachers to review their Inspection experience and talk about priorities moving forward.

January typically is a time in the school calendar when we review our progress with our development priorities. Therefore all departments have submitted a progress review of their 'departmental improvement plans' and I am completing the same exercise for the school improvement plan.

There is also another round of SMT / PT link meetings to go discuss a range of areas including curricular offer in session 2017/18.

Finally, all departments have engaged in self evaluation this term with a focus on the area of leadership of learning.

6. On-going building improvements

The reception area 'bubble' was expected during the Christmas holidays. This did not take place due to matters out with school control. We are awaiting a start date for this work to begin but believe it to be imminent.

For those of you who occasionally park in the staff car park, you may have noticed that the very large pot hole has now been filled.

We have moved our 'timeout' area from a room at the front of the school to the SMT/Guidance area and plan to turn the vacant room into a 'family room' with soft seating and a play area for pre-school children. This will support our commitment to work in partnership with parents by providing a more informal environment for parent meetings and gives us the potential to consider group work etc.

7. Other news

Miss Mitchell won the Renfrewshire Council Staff Awards – Young Achiever of the Year 2016 for her work with pupils S1-6 and in particular her advanced higher class.

We have started an in-house programme of staff development. We have an 'aspiring leaders' initiative involving mentoring and career coaching, alongside the delivery of professional development training for staff. (I have delivered two well attended sessions in the last 2 weeks). This is our attempt to grow our own



staff and develop capacity at all levels, ultimately for the benefit of our young people.

Morgan Spence in S6 has been commissioned to develop a clip to support the Paisley 2021 bid. Alongside this he is also delivering animation workshops across a range of Paisley primary schools. Morgan's film has been featured in the local media and on BBC Scotland.

We have purchased a range of ICT equipment to support curricular delivery across a number of subject areas including 4 new suites of computers for the Computing and Business Education faculty.

We have purchased new kit for our school football and netball teams.

We are using Renfrewshire Council 'cost of the school day' funding to support the range of school trips/events that take place so that pupils who are in receipt of free school meals are supported to engage fully in the life of the school.

We have received additional funds from the Council to support the purchase of materials for the senior phase and PTs have been given the opportunity to access this for their subject through a bid system.

We have signed up for the school app after a fairly successful trial. Thanks to all parent council members who got back to us with feedback. Our one month trial was extended to three (!) by the company but we were eventually pushed for a decision just after Christmas and we felt that the product on offer would suit our needs at this stage.